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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Albania

REPORT

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July 1954 - A) - POLITICAL SITUATION IN ALBANIA**SECRET**

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GENERAL:

With the Italian military occupation and the union of the Albanian Crown to that of the King of Italy, Albania started on the road to a secure future of economic and civilian progress. Even some of the political leaders of the present regime admit that it brought a noteworthy advantage of economic and social improvements to the nation. But many Albanians put up definite resistance to Italy, both in the military and economic fields.

The influence of partisan forces of neighboring Yugoslavia contributed to the creation of two political tendencies in Albania: those of the nationalists and the communists which were totally different in their ideology and which compromised national unity. Thus, the first dissension started, which in many cases resulted in mutual betrayal to the German Command and finally in indiscriminate deportations by the Germans.

When the Germans retreated from Albania, Albanian partisans contacted immediately the Communist liberation forces of Marshall Tito and Communist influence became overpowering. Many were executed, mass arrests and purges took place of all those who held responsible jobs, those who had collaborated with the Italians, with the Germans, and even partisans of purely nationalist groups. Tito partisan formations, supported by an air unit from Tirana, spread all over the country and

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Enver Hoxha.

The Yugoslav political collaboration penetrated into the economy of the country with the arrival of technicians and specialists who directed every economic activity. Even the estimated costs of the first Five-Year Plan (1947-1952) were calculated in Dinars rather than in Lek.

The establishment of the Communist regime was accompanied by an intensive propaganda, but without the usual system of terror. A large portion of the Albanian people adhered with spontaneity and almost with enthusiasm to a regime which promised immediately a new social system, which seemed to the inexperienced and politically unprepared Albanians a new and perfect system of existence.

#### FIRST REACTIONS:

The Albanians found out soon to their disappointment that the new regime had adopted political and economic systems which were completely contrary to their hopes and their expectations. They became soon convinced that they had been cheated and that they were the victims of Communist propaganda.

Of impatient nature, they hoped that the chaotic situation of the first months would quickly give way to order and to the establishment of the program promised by the regime. But with every month that passed, they realized that the real situation was hard and that life was becoming unbearable.

The determining causes which made the new regime unbearable were the immediate nationalization of all private property and the inborn indolence of the Albanian, who abhors work, while the regime forced

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everyone to work. The "norms" imposed on ~~the~~ people who were not used to work hard and long hours were excruciating.

Between 1945 and 1948, numerous open revolts against the regime were <sup>noted.</sup> registered. [redacted] groups of 5-6 very young students (between 16 and 18 years old) of <sup>V. Zere</sup> (Valona, Fier, and Elbasan, who at the beginning of 1947 organized secret groups to fight the regime and who were executed or sentenced to not less than 25 years hard labor.

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Of these, [redacted]

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Klito Canaj of Kanina, [redacted]

<sup>not</sup> was executed.

Vendiqar Amzara, [redacted]

Burim Kokoschi of Valona, [redacted]

[Malig?]

The most outrageous case was that of Halig, where a group of technicians, including some Italians, employed in the drainage of a lake, were sentenced allegedly for inciting a revolution with the help of the British and Americans. Most of the accused were executed, including an Italian.

[redacted] many other reactionary groups of all social classes had been discovered at Korca, Tirana, <sup>Shkoder</sup> Scutari, and in other places, where they were just preparing to organize or had actually made some <sup>attempts</sup> attacks. The members of these organizations, with very few exceptions, were executed.

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In 1947-1948, among a number of measures taken by the Government was ~~also~~ the order to jail all Albanian citizens who had attended the American "Fulz" schools, which had been opened in Albania during King Zog's <sup>reign</sup> reign.

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though he had attended these schools.

Groups of resistance were also found in the armed forces, but none of them caused overt trouble.

In 1948, sabotage and rebellion became more <sup>serious</sup> ~~apparent~~ and ~~less~~ better organized, but this was considered a consequence of the dissension between Tito and the Cominform, which had a profound echo and produced grave consequences in Albania.

#### TITO-COMINFORM DISSENSION AND POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES IN ALBANIA:

In June 1948, within one week, all ~~Albanian~~ army personnel and civilians who had been directors or technical consultants <sup>in</sup> the Albanian Armed Forces, in ministries, in enterprises and business firms, and in any other managing capacity of importance hurriedly left Albania.

In the period following the dissension, open declarations of sympathy were voiced for Marshall Tito and some small groups rebelled against the regime.

A violent and indiscriminate wave of repression followed; arrests were made in towns and villages and many officials and ~~business~~ <sup>in ministries and enterprises</sup> employees were purged. ~~Especially~~ <sup>It is typical of that period that</sup> there were only a few dozen Russians in Albania at that time and <sup>until</sup> ~~in~~ 1950.

The then Minister of the Interior, Koci ~~Xoxhi~~, a former tinsmith, from Korca, was executed, and a similar fate overtook ~~Pandi Hristo~~ <sup>[Xoxhi]</sup>, who was still Minister, because they tried to shake off Russian influence, the same as Marshall Tito.

Taking advantage of the situation, groups of victims of the regime attempted to <sup>start an</sup> ~~spread~~ open rebellion, but without a sound basis and

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defected and betrayed them and the groups were soon arrested and executed.

In the fall of 1949, [redacted]

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Albanians were removed from prison and shot, including some civilians and police officers from the prison guard. The civilians had been connected with prison guards and other free elements, who in turn had connections with political prisoners and the prison police of prisons in other cities. The conspirators had instructions to start a combined action of rebellion at a set date, the movement to start at Valona.

The leader for the Valona sector was Maliq Koshena, and on the part of the police, one Loro (first name unknown), [redacted]

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*Meantime, revolutionary groups were being formed in the army. But these were discovered before they were fully organized.*  
[redacted] They were executed. *Investigations continued to locate the roots of the organization.* A major from a military unit near Korca who had ~~instructions~~ <sup>succeeded in</sup> to organize a group in 1951, was discovered, but he succeeded <sup>in</sup> to flee <sup>ing</sup> to Greece, together with other army men ~~from~~ <sup>of</sup> his unit.

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In other cases, military men tracked down by the regime, crossed <sup>2</sup> secretly the border into Yugoslavia or Greece.

#### THE CONSOLIDATION OF DICTATORSHIP IS ACHIEVEMENT OF MEHMET SHEHU:

In spite of ruthless repressions ~~at the end of 1950 and in 1951~~ <sup>up to</sup>, the dictatorship had not succeeded <sup>in</sup> to control <sup>ing</sup> the situation. Only the energetic, crafty, and cruel action of Mehmet Shehu, appointed Minister of the Interior in 1951, succeeded <sup>in</sup> to subdue <sup>ing</sup> the opponents <sup>of</sup> to the regime and <sup>in</sup> to preclude <sup>ing</sup> any possibility <sup>of their</sup> to organize <sup>ation</sup> themselves to fight the present regime. He is considered "the hard man" of the regime who <sup>would</sup> ~~does~~ not hesitate <sup>in an open meeting</sup> to pull the trigger to ~~shoot down~~ <sup>shoot down</sup> anyone who dared, even <sup>slightly</sup>, to oppose the regime, ~~or who does not submit to it.~~

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Bloody repressions, legalized through public hearings, terrorized the Albanian people. Many groups were tracked down because one member, a camouflaged Communist, betrayed his associates. The discovery was always attributed to the vigilance of the "Albanian People". This was proof to Albanians that the main preoccupation of Mehmet Shehu was the organization of an extensive net of informers and efficient spies, who were then rewarded with privileged jobs. The number of small, ambitious informers, anxious to secure favors even by betraying their own friends, grew tremendously.  the number of spies of the "Sigurimi" (Secret Police), or of the Party was about one to five.

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#### THE PRESENT SITUATION:

The psychosis of betrayal by friends who work ~~on the~~ <sup>side</sup> side", and on who occasionally meet ~~other friends~~, has taken hold of all Albanians. Everybody doubts everybody else and fears a trap when a personal opinion is expressed or a mention of revolution is made.

In 1953, two or three Albanian citizens were parachuted in the Elbasan zone and found shelter with a family whose anti-regime feelings were beyond any doubt. The head of the family, while receiving them and giving them shelter, sent a member of the family to alert the police, because he was afraid that it was a trap set by the police, which had camouflaged its agents as parachutists to test the loyalty of the family.

Albanian agents who slipped in from Greece in 1951-1953 had the same fate. The hearings of these parachutists and agents were widely broadcast, with detailed descriptions of the arrests, the pictures of the individuals at the moment of arrest, statements made by them <sup>perhaps</sup> (falsehoods), from which it <sup>appeared</sup> resulted that the <sup>arrested</sup> had been sent to Albania to spy and to sabotage.

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~~nevertheless~~, at least 70-80 percent of the population hates the yoke of the dictators, and dissatisfaction and anger are increasing more and more. ~~There~~ <sup>no longer any</sup> are episodes of revolutionary underground groups, of open rebellion, ~~and of~~ <sup>and for are</sup> manifestations of discontent.

The mutual distrust <sup>and for are</sup> is the greatest deterrent to any attempt to organized sabotage or to a coordinated coup with a reasonable margin of success to overthrow the regime. Non-Communist Albanians <sup>have</sup> had to submit and resign themselves to the situation, concealing their feelings.

The only possible protest and resistance are in the field of labor and labor unions, and to a smaller extent, in economy. In April 1954, when the government started negotiations with workers of Narta Village, for the rebuilding of the neighboring Valona Salt <sup>works</sup> ~~mines~~. The workers forced their own terms upon the government, because they are ~~the only workers~~ <sup>working in mine</sup> in Albania, specialists in ~~mine digging~~, which must be done barefoot, ~~and they were the only workers in Albania who could~~ <sup>and in a particular manner, and because the government needed them to</sup> execute the work in the Valona Salt <sup>works</sup> ~~mines~~. Aware of the situation, the workers provoked a labor union dispute, in which the government had to intervene by issuing a special decree to cope with the situation. The workers were not ~~intimidated~~ <sup>intimidated</sup> and set their own wage rates which were much larger than any wages previously paid, ~~and which the government had to accept~~. The wage was not less than 400 leks per day per worker (an average worker earns about 100 leks per day), and the supervisors had to close an eye and allow workers to work only 4-5 hours per day, which reduced the "norms" and was against regulations which call for a minimum of 8 hours' work per day.

Brigade leader Spiro Papa, at present employed with the Valona Cement Factory, together with his brigade, <sup>went on a strike</sup> ~~caused great disturbances~~ (1954), because the technical supervisor miscalculated production and

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wages for work done by him and his brigade.

Others show their dissatisfaction with the regime in many other ways. For example, Andres Muco, about 40 years old, a waiter at the Sazan (Sasena) Restaurant in Valona, continues to work in this ~~menial~~ profession only because he can annoy Communist patrons who eat in that restaurant, by keeping them waiting for service as long as he possibly can, often spitting on the food.

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The waiter,

behaved as described above, because this was the only <sup>way</sup> ~~means~~ to demonstrate his hate against the regime and his contempt for its leaders.

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Very few people attempt to leave the country illegally, because their families would be deported to labor camps and kept there to force defectors to return.

The Albanians are ready to accept any situation that will rid them of Communist dictatorship, but they are sure that without foreign aid, this cannot be done. Hope is kept alive by leaflets smuggled into Albania through underground channels. The Albanians are prepared for action at the first shot of a gun. It is amazing that Albania, such a small nation, surrounded by non-Communist countries and far removed from Russia, cannot be liberated from the Communist dictatorship, after all the ~~promised~~ promises given them since 1946.

Others, who are more objective, say that Albania is too small politically, and too insignificant a nation in the international political picture; but, in the long run, even the proudest nation ~~must~~ <sup>cannot resist</sup> ~~give up~~ hope <sup>of</sup> to shake off the yoke of dictatorship that is destroying it.

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At least 70-80 percent of Albanians are prepared to fight the present regime, provided the West takes organized action and provides adequate means.

### SENTIMENTS OF THE POPULATION ACCORDING TO CATEGORIES:

#### Students:

Communist propaganda finds ready acceptance with students in general. <sup>books etc.</sup> Education in schools <sup>even Napoleon</sup> is on the Soviet pattern and ~~everything~~ is misrepresented. <sup>events are mentioned only when they contribute</sup> Western ~~science is constantly discredited.~~ Furthermore, during vacations, students are employed in various <sup>To propaganda example, science books is cited as an instance of the obscuration</sup> organizations for voluntary work, political party education, etc. A small percentage of youth searches for the truth, because they are guided by their families. Many parents, however, refrain from discussing anything with their children, except family matters, because they fear that the <sup>children</sup> ~~son~~ might unwittingly disclose the ideas of the father.

#### Workers:

Youth is trained and <sup>teaches</sup> ~~makes~~ its apprenticeship in state organizations and is ~~being~~ indoctrinated with Marxist teachings which it <sup>has learned by</sup> ~~must~~ remember. Slowness in work is nothing else but inborn passiveness, and should not be confused with intentional sabotage. It is dangerous to discuss political problems with youngsters because they are instructed to report all they hear and see, for a better collaboration in work.

#### Mature Workers:

A small percentage of workers are convinced Communists; 20 percent are agnostics, and 75 percent are dissatisfied because the regime has not kept its promises and living conditions have not improved in the

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last eight years. Besides, negligence cases are punished as sabotage. *Such punishment considered*  
~~The accused~~ *are imprisoned unjustly*, because in most cases inadequate working conditions ~~caused the slowdown~~ *were responsible*. The finishing touches on work are performed sloppily, because workers must hurry to attain their "norms".

#### Older Workers:

The great majority is definitely against the regime. They recall the past and their fondest hopes are to see the present regime overthrown.

#### State Employees:

Old employees have no use for the present regime. Many half-illiterates have been placed in state key positions for political merits, to whom the bonanza appears like a dream that will disappear with daybreak. Those are loyal servants to the state. However, administrative jobs are ~~still~~ *largely* held by the old employees.

#### Professionals:

##### Doctors:

Even though opposed to dictatorship, they are not elements that would lend themselves to underground activities. Their economic conditions are good, in part because of the scarcity of doctors in Albania, and because they can carry on their profession privately, in addition to their government jobs.

##### Lawyers:

They are united in cooperatives. Their income is derived from the dividends of the cooperative, which has many overhead expenses (employees, taxes, etc.). Their field of activity is much more limited. ~~There are almost no many~~ *Some have been penalized* lawyers ~~as there are accused~~, because ~~more~~ *than*

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*defense of their clients infringed the legal limitations.*  
~~more lawyers graduate every year, than legally allowed.~~

### Teachers:

They are forced to adjust their teaching to political directives.

Professor ~~Petro~~<sup>Petro</sup> Petraq, history teacher at the Higher Institute of Tirana, confided  how much he suffered because he is forced to 50X1-HUM teach what is against the truth.

Teachers in general, in spite of their better conscience, are careful not to infringe disciplinary orders or the instructions of the police. *They also have their own daily problems, worried*  
~~However, many of them teach once in a while the way they~~  
~~feel.~~

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### Peasants:

Living conditions of peasants will be considerably improved in 1955 through the assistance given them by the regime. However, this has not induced the peasants to give up their desire for independence, *not in regard to personal property and regulation of crops*  
~~but rather the pressure to which they were subjected by government~~  
~~"advisors".~~ *(which are now submitted by government advisors)*

### POLITICAL BACKGROUND AND MOTIVES WHICH CAUSED THE RESIGNATION OF ENVER HOXHA AND HIS REPLACEMENT BY MEHMET SHEHU.

*Starting in*  
~~At the end of~~ 1951, rumors circulated throughout Albania of strong antagonism between the head of the government, Enver Hoxha,

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and the Minister of the Interior, Mehmet Shehu. It was also rumored that special elections would be held within the people's executive committees of the Party, so that central and peripheral leaders could choose and decide <sup>which of them</sup> who should lead the government. Albanians in the people's executive committees, with whom source spoke, stated that the choice was for Mehmet Shehu. However, months and years passed and the political change did not take place.

In the spring of 1954, general elections were held in Albania. The authorized voters belonged to the "Triska e Frontit" (National Front), and former deputies, as for example those of Valona, were re-elected by a large majority. In the meantime, during a meeting of the Central Committee of the Party at Tirana, <sup>in a conference with the members</sup> the council of Russian political advisers ~~submitted~~ the negative results obtained in the political, economic, and social fields. The head of the government was blamed for ~~these~~ conditions which displeased Soviet desires.

In subsequent meetings, new programs were set up, especially in the economic field, intended mainly to remove bureaucracy, to unite the various ministries, organizations, and employees into a concerted effort to give incentive and strength to agriculture and put an end to negligence.

Thus, 19 July 1954 came, when the Kuvendi Popular (<sup>Peoples</sup> Chamber of ~~Deputies~~) met for the first time after elections. At that meeting, Enver Hoxha criticized his own activity. He apologized for the errors committed, explaining that he was excessively burdened by his many functions. He requested the assembly to relieve him of the <sup>post</sup> burden of Prime Minister and of ~~the~~ Supreme Command of the Armed Forces. He stated he would feel honored to remain First Secretary of the Communist Party, where he could accomplish much more than in the past.

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Upon the proposal of Minister Spiro Koleka, Mehmet Shehu was appointed Prime Minister. The post of Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces remained vacant for the time being.

During the same meeting, some changes in public administration were made; among others, the law was abrogated requiring public places to exhibit the pictures of the head of the government and of other members of the government, ~~and also the law forbidding the erection of monuments to living personalities.~~ *Another was passed...*

*removed from public places (buildings, etc.)*

[redacted] the newly 50X1-HUM  
elected deputy from Valona, Isaja Lazar, [redacted]

[redacted] expressed his satisfaction at the appointment of Mehmet Shehu to the new post, stating that many important problems had been discussed during the meeting and that he was preparing to return to Valona (deputies normally reside and carry on their political activity in the district which elected them) to work with renewed enthusiasm for the "re-organization" of the country.

It is not quite clear why the change was delayed so long, that is since 1951. It should, however, be noted that the government and the central leaders are divided into two distinct factions, for and against the two personalities in question, and the newly elected deputies are definitely loyal to Mehmet Shehu. He is the "strong" man of the party, ambitious and resolute, and enjoys the respect <sup>of</sup> from all members of the Party and its leaders.

It is said that in 1951 or 1952, Enver Hoxha recovered in a secluded villa from a wound inflicted by Mehmet Shehu who shot him during a political argument.

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Mehmet Shehu is a native of the desolate wooded mountain region of Malakast<sup>a</sup> (between the right bank of the V<sup>l</sup>os<sup>a</sup> River and Berat River), called the Malakast<sup>a</sup> Woodlands. In 1949, he ordered the execution of a fellow countryman from Klos, a Colonel in the Ministry of the Interior, for unknown reasons.

Enver Hoxha, a native of the Argirocast<sup>a</sup> region, is poised and has always been the balancing element in the dictatorial excesses and the political fanaticism of Mehmet Shehu.  these 50X1-HUM facts are known throughout the country.

If Mehmet Shehu ~~has the~~ <sup>is</sup> intention to completely remove Enver Hoxha from power, he will have to proceed with caution, because Hoxha still enjoys great popularity in the country, even among non-Communist elements, who see in him the lesser evil and the restraining power ~~in~~ the deteriorating situation. This is an indication of what the political collaboration will be between Enver Hoxha and Mehmet Shehu.

It is foreseen that the differences between the two men will grow and ultimately force an issue of the power problem, which will be in favor of Mehmet Shehu, who enjoys the confidence of the Soviets, the Party cadres, and the political leaders, and who during the three years he held the post of Minister of the Interior, selected the cadres of the "Sigurimi" and filled the jobs with elements who are loyal and devoted to him.

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REASONS FOR THE PROTRACTED SOJOURN IN THE USSR OF BEQIR BALLUKU  
AND LIRI BELISHOVA (WOMAN):

The protracted sojourn in the USSR of the two personages mentioned above has no valid justification.

For example, in the past, Minister Spiru Koleka, engineer, former Minister of Public Works, Chairman of the Planning Committee in 1948, and subsequently <sup>one of the top</sup> ~~other~~ leaders of the Party <sup>was</sup> ~~were~~ invited to the USSR, for reasons <sup>on</sup> ~~known~~ to the people. <sup>He</sup> ~~They~~ spent several years in Russia. The people understood that ~~these~~ <sup>was</sup> ~~trips~~ <sup>were</sup> motivated by political and disciplinary reasons.

The newspapers, <sup>meanwhile,</sup> ~~subsequently~~ carried announcements of the signing of agreements between the USSR and Albania, the latter represented by Delegate Koleka.

Upon his return from the USSR, Koleka again became Minister of Public Works, and after the changes of 19 July, he again assumed the post of Chairman of the Planning Committee.

RELIGIONS:

Four religions are officially sanctioned in Albania:

- the Moslem Faith,
- <sup>[Bektashi]</sup>  
the Dervish Faith, (Moslem religion, slightly different  
from the mother faith)
- the Orthodox Faith,
- the Catholic Faith.

The Orthodox, with few exceptions, live in the southern regions, <sup>(about 15 percent of the number)</sup> and the Catholics in the Scutari region. All four faiths enjoy the

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same freedom of worship, but they are controlled by the regime, which has removed clergymen who refused to collaborate.

The Catholics, in particular, do not go often to church, because they fear untold hardships if, by necessity, they would have any dealings with the authorities of the state. In many localities, the churches have no priests; in many villages, Holy Mass is celebrated only once a month, or once every two months. With the arrest of Father Gardini, an Italian, who is at present in a labor camp in the Kavaja region, the Catholic Church has lost its last legal representative.

#### SOVIET MILITARY AND CIVILIAN MISSION IN ALBANIA:

As already mentioned, there were hardly 10 Russian officers and civilians in Albania ~~by the end of~~ <sup>until</sup> 1949-1950. Since 1950, the Soviet Mission in Albania <sup>has</sup> increased gradually, and is at present about 5,000 persons strong, both military and civilian <sup>personnel</sup>, including the wives and children of those who brought along their families.

#### Military:

The military are spread all over Albania, attached to army units, quite specially in Tirana, Durazzo, <sup>[Durrës]</sup> Scutari, Valona, and Korça. 50X1-HUM

instructors were attached to all units. Those people probably have other <sup>specific</sup> duties, which they cover up, but which source did not ~~notice~~ <sup>know</sup>.

For example, in the spring of this year, he noticed a small group of Russian officers surveying the terrain north of <sup>the</sup> Valona airfield, and ~~they~~ <sup>they</sup> found some type of telephone wires which were connected with the airfield. Furthermore, he recalls that navy officers were stationed at Valona, but he did not see any navy units.

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At Valona, 20-25 high Russian army and navy officers are permanently stationed; they arrived <sup>at the</sup> end of 1952. They wear regular Soviet uniforms and live completely separated from the population. Replacements are rare. During the current year a high ranking Russian officer was 50X1-HUM expected to come to Valona.

### Civilians:

The number of Russian civilians stationed all over Albania has increased constantly with the growing industrialization of the country. Russians are placed in the management of mines, of factories of any importance, of technical enterprises, and of business firms. They are engineers, technicians, and specialized workers.

Normally, a new factory or a new enterprise is blue-printed in Russia and materials and machinery are supplied from Russia. The construction work is then supervised by engineers, technicians, and skilled workers. When the factory starts operation, part of the Russians return to the Soviet Union, and a few remain at their posts <sup>until</sup> ~~to supervise~~ the Albanians who <sup>re</sup> had previously been trained in Russia ~~are able~~ <sup>to perform</sup> special work for which the factory was constructed. Sometimes, the Russian staff alternates with another group brought in for the construction of another factory.

At present, for example, 9 Russian engineers and about 100 technicians and specialized workers are employed at the Valona Cement Factory which is just about to be completed.

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enterprises, such as

the Selenica<sup>e</sup> (Valona) Bituminous Mines

the Memalja<sup>e</sup> (Valona) Coal Mines

the Patos Oilfields.

But the largest group of Russian engineers in Albania is made up of geologists. They are divided into groups called "Ekip Geologik", (geological teams) and are about everywhere in Albania. They have drilling equipment mounted on trucks for exploration purposes. Several large pieces of drilling equipment are stationed near Tirana and Durazzo.

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[ ] Ekip Geologik, [ ]

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Geological Team of Valona:

This team consists of 8 geologists. [ ] to date they were not able to find any ore deposits.

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Geological Team of Selenica<sup>e</sup> (Valona):

This team consists of 5-6 geologists. They are interested only in bituminous deposits.

Geological Team of Patos:

They carry on research in the oilfield zone<sup>s</sup>, where oil wells have already been drilled.

Geological Team of Memalja<sup>e</sup> (Valona):

This team is made up of 12-15 Polish geologists; they are exploring the coal deposits in the region.

All of these teams are under the jurisdiction of a Russian Directorate for Geological Research with headquarters at Tirana.

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at Durazzo.

Soviet civilians do not carry on any political activity, nor do they <sup>have</sup> ~~entertain~~ any friendly relations with Albanians.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Listening to Foreign Broadcasts:

Listening to foreign broadcasts <sup>has been</sup> ~~is~~ permitted <sup>for</sup> ~~since~~ about two years. Albanians, however, do not take advantage publicly of this permission, and radios in public places are always tuned to the Tirane Broadcasting Station.

Albanians listen gladly to foreign broadcasts in their homes, but they use great caution. Foreign broadcasts are jammed, but not enough to be unintelligible if the listeners concentrate and listen carefully. Albanians have only few receiving sets, and these are of Italian, American, and German manufacture.

Czechoslovak radio sets with 5 tubes have been on the market only since 1952. These sets are about the size of a shoe box (18 x 30 x 25 centimeters), with a medium and short wave circuit. The replacement parts of these sets are being used for repairs of old sets of other makes.

The programs of western broadcasts coincide with the hours when Albanians are not at work.

Jews in Albania:

The Jews residing in Albania have repeatedly requested permission to emigrate to Israel. The Russian Government has given its consent,

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but the Albanian Government has constantly refused to take action.

Finally, in June 1954, the Albanian Government definitely rejected all requests for permission to emigrate to Israel.

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Coastal Security Measures:

According to Albanian coastal security measures, no Albanian citizen, without a regular permit, may approach the coast beyond the 1,000 meter limits.

Censoring of Mail:

Theoretically, censoring of mail does not exist, but source knows that the mail addressed to people under surveillance is being checked.

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**SECRET**July 1954 - B) -- MORALE IN ALBANIA:General:

The peace of mind of the Albanian citizen is disturbed, on the one hand, because of the fear inspired by the <sup>in the political field</sup> regime, and on the other hand, because of the difficulties and unbearable economic conditions under which he struggles.

~~The shortages of~~ all types of food <sup>are</sup> ~~and~~ rigid <sup>by</sup> ~~rationing~~ <sup>of</sup> ~~of supplies~~ <sup>except</sup> make it impossible to get any fruit or vegetables. The ration given out on one ration coupon, except for bread, must suffice for a week, irrespective <sup>of</sup> whether it is enough or not, and prices on the free market are more than double the official prices.

An example of two different cases: a kilogram of bread costs 5 and 70 leks, respectively, and a kilogram of sugar costs 25 and 250 leks, respectively.

Wages are entirely inadequate to cover the most urgent necessities of life, and it is <sup>almost</sup> impossible for the Albanian worker to buy clothes, even though they are of coarse quality and poor workmanship. Rationed clothes and free market clothes are fabulously high in relation to current earnings. For example, in two cases: a pair of shoes costs about 500 and 1,500 leks, respectively, and a suit 2,000 and 10,000 leks, respectively.

The wages of a worker vary from 100-200 leks per day, and the salary of an average employee between 3,500-5,000 leks per month.

Due to the housing shortage, a family must live in one room.

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Another hardship is that people are forced to "volunteer" to

help <sup>in</sup> the reconstruction of the country, contributing many hours of work without pay. Of course, strikes are forbidden and are branded as high treason against the people and the nation. To this discouraging picture must be added <sup>that no furniture, servants, or domestic</sup> ~~betrayal and denunciation by friends and servants.~~ <sup>can be obtained.</sup>

Albania needed consumer goods more than anything else ~~in the post-war period~~, to come back to its <sup>pre-war</sup> ~~former~~ standard of living, even though it <sup>was</sup> ~~is~~ considered as one of the European countries with the lowest standard of living.  people who received packages from abroad requested, for example, dyes for fabrics; 1/2 kilogram of dye would be sold for 5,000-6,000 leks.

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The population is exhausted from the heavy "norms" of work, and is undernourished because of lack of food.

Workers and white-collar employees are dejected and their depression is increased by the memories of their sunny past.

Employees, bookkeepers, and all other workers in stores and offices swindle and cheat. Recent cases are known where millions have been embezzled, as was the case <sup>at</sup> the Banca Popolare of Tirana, and at a smaller enterprise, the N.T.L.A.P. (Ndermarje Tregetare Lokale e Artikujve te Perzier, Local Trade Enterprise <sup>for</sup> Assorted Articles), a local commercial enterprise selling foodstuffs, clothes, etc., in Fier<sup>e</sup> and Korç<sup>e</sup>.

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As a result of the new economic policy which is oriented towards a larger agricultural production, living conditions for peasants will improve. During the current year, peasants have been assisted with machines, seeds, fertilizer, and credits to make improvements at their farms and homes. Industry must produce 5 percent more than provided

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and leather goods, which they need very badly.

Collections of all agricultural products, of livestock, and of animal products are rigidly imposed. Collections are calculated on the size of the land of every peasant, and the owner of any amount of land, irrespective of the animals he raises, must deliver a determined quota of agricultural products, cotton, tobacco, meat, milk, eggs, etc. To demonstrate the rigid discipline applied to collections, suffice it to say that hunters who renew their hunting license, must pledge to deliver a certain quantity of game at the end of the season.

On the other hand, peasants are required to pay lower taxes. It is foreseen that living conditions of peasants will be considerably improved in 1955, and many peasants who had moved to cities, attracted by larger <sup>earnings</sup> ~~wages~~, have returned to their farms.

Employees and sales people must complete their work "norms". It often happens that a salesman requests a customer to buy one or the other item, because he is short of his sales norm and risks to lose <sup>his</sup> job and be <sup>sent</sup> to manual labor.

The above-mentioned living conditions have resulted in misery and despair, and it is easy to see that the great masses of Albanians are profoundly depressed.

#### Morale of Armed Forces:

The political and economic situation of the country affects also the morale of the army.

#### Officers:

Officers in general are considered ~~to be the~~ <sup>a</sup> privileged class and they enjoy economic advantages. The N.T.U. (Ndermarje Tregtare

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Ushtarane, Military Trading Enterprises<sup>s</sup>) sell<sup>s</sup> food and consumer goods at reduced prices to officers.

Nevertheless, it has been noticed, even at the present time, that many officers' families have been sent to concentration camps because the officer-husbands have deserted.

[ ] a large percentage of officers would defect if their families would not be in danger of reprisals, and if the close surveillance of the police would not constantly and carefully control their every movement, their statements, and even their facial expression.

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#### The Troops:

Soldiers' economic conditions and food rations, in general, are satisfactory. Soldiers coming home on furlough are in excellent health. However, discipline is rigid, training is tiring, and officers mistreat the soldiers frequently and brutally.

Discharged soldiers complain violently against the mean disciplinary handling and the morale breaking treatment to which they are subjected, and they are thoroughly dissatisfied.

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